
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: John Pickett

Finding: *(i.e., Conclusions reached after investigation and/or evaluation of facts)*

Currently under California Public Resource Code, Professional Foresters Licensing Law, the fire services cannot consult with property owners about mitigating the fire hazard posed by undeveloped urban lots without employing the services of a California Registered Professional Forester. .

Background: *(A short statement justifying the Finding and describing desired outcome(s); usually no more than half a page.)*

Undeveloped lots within the Wildland Urban Interface can support wildland fire within the urban cores of Lake Tahoe communities. The Fire Services of the Lake Tahoe Basin have identified undeveloped lots within urban areas as a significant hazard to life safety and property.

In the Lake Tahoe Basin many small urban lots have been purchased by private individuals and the coverage, as determined by TRPA, is transferred to another lot where the landowner intends to build a home. The result is that there are a large number of undeveloped lots, within urban areas, that harbor significant fire hazards. The landowners do not have an interest in those lots as they are now undevelopable and have no residual value to the landowner.

California Public Resource code and the Professional Foresters Law thereunder requires a California Registered Professional Forester consult with landowners about reducing fuels on small undeveloped urban lots in cases where the homeowner requests advice. The current interpretation of "devoted to urban uses" in the Professional Foresters Law excludes these small urban lots. There is currently a scarcity of Registered Professional Foresters in the Lake Tahoe Basin and the work of marking trees on small undeveloped urban lots does not fit the typical work that Registered Professional Foresters desire. The net result of the California Public Resource Code's requirement that Registered Professional Foresters consult with landowners about fuel loading on small undeveloped urban lots has resulted in a lack of fuels reduction work taking place on those lots and this results in an unsafe condition within urban areas.

Recommendation(s) *(Based upon an analysis of the Finding, the following recommendation(s) should be made to the Governors):*

1. It is recommended that the TRPA identify the "small undeveloped urban lots" in the California portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin that can be fairly characterized as "being devoted to urban uses."
2. Further, it is recommended that "small undeveloped urban lot" be defined as an undeveloped lot, within a community and under two acres in size.
3. Further, it is recommended that the owners of undeveloped urban lots of larger than two acres, in the California portion of the Lake Tahoe Basin, be encouraged to consult a Registered Professional Forester to determine if the sale of timber could help offset the costs of fuels removal and forest management.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED:

- ☐ Cost – Staff time of Cal Fire
- ☐ Funding source
- ☐ Staffing
- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws – California Professional Foresters law

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental

For Commission Staff Use Only:

Tracking #: V-083
Date Received: 2/13/08,
Submitted by: JPickett
Forwarded to: CFSC

CFSC APPROVED 3/6/08

☐ Interagency

PROPOSED